

BOOK REVIEWS

Yonge, C. M., 1949. *The Sea Shore*. Collins, London, 311 pages, 88 text figures, 40 colored plates and 32 black and white plates.

This is probably the most important general book on the ecology of the sea shore that has appeared in recent years. Though restricted in its scope to the shores of Great Britain, the principles discussed and illustrated apply throughout the world. C. M. Yonge, with his wide field experience and his great interest in physiology has given a breadth of interpretation to conditions existing along the British shores which makes the book of first importance to all students of marine ecology.

The introductory chapters discuss briefly the history of marine ecology in the British Isles, the plants and animals which inhabit the sea shore, the ocean as a background to life along the shore and the physical nature and formation of the shore.

The remainder of the book is devoted to a study of the plants and animals of various ecological habitats, their methods of feeding, survival and reproduction. The selective effect of the environment on the species which can exist within a given locality and the inter-relationships of these species are the dominant themes throughout the book. This may be illustrated by quoting a few of the chapter titles: "Zonation on Rocky Shores; The Intimate Fauna of Weed and Rock; Sandy Shores; Muddy Shores; Borers into Rock and Wood; Life in Estuaries; and Barnacles and Molluscs of Rocky Shore." Mollusks being one of the dominant groups of marine animals, much of the book is devoted to this phylum.

The illustrations in this book are unsurpassed, the forty full page colored plates are beautifully produced. The many black and white plates, text figures, graphs and diagrams are a constant aid in readily understanding the material in the text.

Although this is not a book for the beginner in zoology, he would glean much from its pages. The factual data, though briefly stated, represent years of study by biologists in all portions of the world. Dr. Yonge gives constant reference to the researches of others and has an interesting way of presenting personalities concerned in this research in the history and development of the natural sciences and the growth of the science of Oceanography and Ecology, particularly in the British Isles.—RUTH D. TURNER.

MacGinitie, G. E. and Nettie MacGinitie 1949, *Natural History of Marine Animals*, McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc., New York, 473 pages, 282 figures.

For one seeking acquaintance with the varied fauna of the sea shore this book should be a real help. It is essentially an introductory text book surveying the phyla from a natural history point of view, stressing the habits and relationships of the animals rather than their anatomy. As much of the book is based on the personal observations of the authors it is written with a stimulating enthusiasm. Though most of the animals considered are from the Pacific coast of North America, the habitats and habits of closely related forms may be sufficiently close so that the book can serve as a guide elsewhere. The many hints regarding methods and techniques of observation are also helpful.

The first twelve chapters are devoted to generalized discussions of such subjects as Food, Sense Organs, Luminescence, Marine Animal Habitats, Variation and Succession, and Relationships. The remaining chapters are devoted to a survey of the phyla, the length of each chapter depending on the size of the group, its importance and interest.

The illustrations in the book though of excellent choice as to subject matter are often rather poorly executed, especially some of the half-tones. The line cuts as a whole are good.